



AFRL-OSR-VA-TR-2013-0106

New Algorithms and Sparse Regularization for Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging

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March 2013

Final Report

DISTRIBUTION A: Approved for public release.

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
<small>Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Service, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188) Washington, DC 20503.</small>					
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.					
1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 14-02-2013		2. REPORT TYPE Final		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) Sep 2011 - Sep 2012	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE New Algorithms and Sparse Regularization for Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER 	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER FA9550-11-1-0221	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER 	
6. AUTHOR(S) Demanet, Laurent				5d. PROJECT NUMBER 	
				5e. TASK NUMBER 	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER 	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Massachusetts Institute of Technology 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 2-392 Cambridge, MA 01239				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER 	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Office of Science and Research 875 Randolph Street Suite 325 Room 3112 Arlington, VA 22203 Dr. Arje Nachman/RSE				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) AFOSR	
				11. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER AFRL-OSR-VA-TR-2013-0106	
12. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Distribution A: Approved for public release					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES 					
14. ABSTRACT The PI and his collaborators proposed an algorithm to form a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) image in low algorithmic complexity. It is based on the so-called butterfly scheme. Control over the accuracy is provided. Speedups in the hundreds are reported on the Air Force's GOTCHA dataset. The PI and his collaborators also investigated the possibility of forming super-resolved images from bandlimited pulse-echo data with ideas of sparse optimization that bear a link to compressed sensing. The difficulty of super-resolution is summarized in a single number, a principal angle between subspaces, which also governs the algorithmic complexity of the minimization.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS Synthetic aperture radar, algorithms, optimization, super-resolution					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UU	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON Demanet, Laurent
a. REPORT U	b. ABSTRACT U	c. THIS PAGE U			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include area code) 1-617-3242614

Final performance report for AFOSR program manager Arje Nachman

PI: Laurent Demanet
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- Grant title: New Algorithms and Sparse Regularization for Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging
- Grant number: FA9550-11-1-0221
- Period: Sep 2011 - Sep 2012

- Research results: A first line of work concerns fast algorithms for synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging. The PI and his collaborators proposed an algorithm to form a SAR image from N data points in provable complexity $O(N \log N \log(1/\epsilon))$ without making the far-field approximation or imposing the beampattern approximation required by time-domain backprojection, with ϵ the desired pixelwise accuracy. It is based on the so-called butterfly scheme, which unlike the FFT works for vastly more general oscillatory integrals than the discrete Fourier transform. A complete error analysis is provided. The strength of the algorithm is in the control over the accuracy. The interpretability of the resulting image is demonstrated not to suffer from the change of algorithm. Speedups in the hundreds are reported on the Air Force's GOTCHA dataset.

Another line of work concerns the possibility of forming super-resolved images from bandlimited pulse-echo data, with ideas of sparse optimization that bear a link to compressed sensing. The PI and his collaborator studied the range of applicability of a particular algorithm, known as the Douglas-Rachford iteration, for super-resolution. The difficulty of super-resolution is summarized in a single number, a principal angle between subspaces, which also governs the algorithmic complexity of the minimization. The results are supported by numerical validation.

- Publications:

L. Demanet, M. Ferrara, N. Maxwell, J. Poulson, L. Ying, A butterfly algorithm for synthetic aperture radar imaging, SIAM J. Imaging Sci. 5-1 (2012) 203-243. Archived at <http://math.mit.edu/icg/papers/butterfly-radar.pdf>

L. Demanet, X. Zhang, Eventual linear convergence of the Douglas Rachford iteration for basis pursuit, preprint. Archived at <http://math.mit.edu/icg/papers/DR.pdf>

- AFRL contacts: The work on fast algorithms for SAR was done in collaboration with Nicholas Maxwell, an intern with the PI at MIT and with Matthew Ferrara at AFRL/RYPAT. The PI is currently in contact with Jason Parker at AFRL/RYPAT for further work on the butterfly algorithm for SAR in the MIMO case (moving arrays of antennas), a situation of interest to the Air Force. Another topic under consideration for future collaboration with J. Parker is an alternative approach to autofocus for SAR using novel ideas of interferometric inversion. An intern (Alex Gutierrez) was selected from a pool of applicants for work at AFRL with the PI and J. Parker during the summer of 2013.